

REMARKS/ARGUMENT

Applicant has canceled claim 11 and has added new claims 25-31. Accordingly, claims 12-31 are currently pending in the present application.

Applicant would like to thank the Examiner for indicating that claims 12 and 16-23 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. As such, Applicant has amended claims 12 and 16 in accordance with the Examiner's suggestion. Claims 17-20 have been left unchanged, since these claims depend from now allowable claim 16; claims 21 and 22 have been rewritten in accordance with the Examiner's suggestion as new claims 30 and 31; claims 13-15 and 24 have been amended to depend from now allowable claim 12; claims 21-23 have been left unchanged, since these claims now depend from allowable claims 13 and 14; and new claims 25-29 ultimately depend from now allowable claim 13. It is respectfully submitted that all claim amendments do not add new matter and have adequate support throughout the Specification. Accordingly, it is believed that all pending claims 12-31 are currently in allowable condition.

Otherwise, Applicant respectfully traverses all objections and claim rejections for the reasons that follow:

I. OBJECTION TO THE ABSTRACT

The Abstract was objected to for allegedly containing impermissible phraseology. As such, Applicant has amended the Abstract to address these concerns. It is respectfully submitted that the amendments to the Abstract do not add new matter. Accordingly, it is kindly requested that the objection to the Abstract be withdrawn.

II. REJECTIONS OF CLAIMS 11, 13-15, AND 24 UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 11, 13-15, and 24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,758,852 to Martin. Respectfully, Applicant traverses.

Claim 11 has been canceled herein without prejudice, and claims 13-15 and 24 have been amended to depend from now allowable claim 12. As such, the rejections of these

claims are now moot. Accordingly, it is kindly requested that the rejections of claims 11, 13-15, and 24 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) be withdrawn.

III. CONCLUSION


In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that all pending claims are currently in allowable condition. Accordingly, reconsideration and prompt allowance of all pending claims is therefore earnestly solicited.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on April 16, 2003

Respectfully submitted,

Robert C. Faber

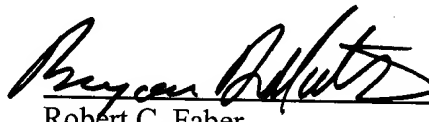
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